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| COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) Policy |
| Issue 1.2 |

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| **COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Policy** |
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# UPDATED 23 MARCH 2020

The most recent Government and Scientific advice on how to further limit the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is clear. If children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading. That is why the government has asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.

The fewer children making the journey to school, and the fewer children in educational settings, the lower the risk that the virus will spread and infect vulnerable individuals in wider society.

Schools have been asked to continue to provide care for a limited number of children - children who are vulnerable and children whose parents are identified as Key Workers who are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home. Vulnerable children include children who are supported by social care, those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, ‘looked after’ children, young carers, disabled children and those with [education, health and care (EHC) plans](https://www.gov.uk/children-with-special-educational-needs/extra-SEN-help).

Peregrinate School will continue to follow instructions from the Government, Department of Education, Public Health England and Liverpool, Halton, Knowsley and Sefton Councils on the COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

The department of education is emailing the school on a daily basis with advice and instructions.

All Schools were closed as from Friday 20th MARCH 2020 until further notice. This Policy outlines our aims and process during this closure and steps taken to maintain a safe and healthy environment within our School, Students, Parents, Carers and Staff.

# Background

As part of the Governments fight to slow down the spread of COVID-19 one of the decisions made across England & Wales was to close Schools until further notice. This is an extremely difficult situation which impacts us all, but we believe that the closure of schools is necessary to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of everyone and prevent further spread of the virus.

The Prime Minister has advised that children should not be left with older grandparents or older relatives who may be particularly vulnerable to the Coronavirus.

Peregrinate School closed on Friday 20th MARCH 2020. Students, Parents and Carers will be aware that last week we had proactively provided all Learners with a work pack specifically designed for their own individual learning needs. This includes practical paperwork and online learning which will be supported by staff using telephone, email, webinars and online tutoring. All Parents and Carers also received several letters and advice explaining how we will contact them and their children throughout the closure to ensure all is well at home and to provide more work and instructions. Students, Parents and Carers will be contacted each day to ensure that the household remains healthy, if they require assistance, support students with the homework, provide extra work as required. All Students, Parents and Carers have been provided with the Headteachers direct telephone number and email address should they need to contact her.

Unless you have heard differently your child will be educated at home during this period.

# Government Requirement

Vulnerable children and children of key workers will continue to be able to attend a school as normal. Examples of these key workers include NHS staff, police and delivery drivers who need to be able to go to work. A full list of Key Workers can be found here. Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those with educational health and care plans.

The Government requires that this group of students receive additional support throughout these closures. Peregrinate School will implement the Business Continuity Plan from 23rd March 2020, which describes how learners will be supported throughout the home schooling period.

Clearly if these students become ill during this period they should contact and inform the school immediately. We ask parents to closely monitor their children and take responsible action to advise us not to have contact with their child until they have fully self-isolated for fourteen days.

Students, Parents, Members of Staff should not engage in school activities if they are experiencing any COVID-19 (Coronavirus) symptoms. Peregrinate School is acutely aware of the impact this virus is having and appreciates the support and understanding of families at this exceptional time.

# Students Receiving Free School Meals

The Government has made two provisions for children who receive free school meals. Those students who receive free school meals and are being home tutored will receive vouchers to be spent in supermarkets and shops. On 19th March 2020 Peregrinate School wrote to all parents who will receive these vouchers advising that they must take the letter to their nearest Children’s Centre in the Ward where they live where vouchers will be issued and arrangements made for further vouchers as required. [See here in Letters from the Headteacher for the full version of this letter.](https://peregrinate.school/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-19-Free-School-Meal-Vouchers.doc)

# Expectations from Students and Parents/Carers

Peregrinate School and all staff will work hard to support all students who are being home schooled. Each student will receive support on a daily basis. There is no limit to the amount of support an individual student can get. In return we expect each student, parent or carer to support our efforts and engage fully with the studies in order to support next steps, whatever that journey may look like.

Those students attending school will benefit from smaller class sizes and our process will include social distancing both in and out of class.